



Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A method ~~for~~ of coding of a speech signal, the method comprising the steps of:

accumulating samples of the speech signal over ~~at least a minimum~~ sampling duration to provide accumulated samples;

evaluating the accumulated samples ~~associated with the minimum sampling period~~ to obtain a representative sample;

determining whether a slope of the representative sample ~~of the speech signal~~ conforms to a defined characteristic slope stored in a reference database of spectral characteristics; and

selecting a value of a coding parameter, ~~for application to~~ coding the speech signal, ~~for the coding based on the determination on the spectral slope of the representative sample~~ determining step.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 where the evaluating comprises averaging the accumulated samples over the ~~minimum~~ sampling duration to obtain the representative sample.

24. (Amended) A system for coding a speech signal, the system comprising:

a buffer memory for accumulating samples of the speech signal over ~~at least a minimum~~ sampling duration to provide accumulated samples;

~~an averaging unit for evaluating the accumulated samples associated with the minimum sampling period to obtain a representative sample;~~

~~a storage device adapted to store spectral characteristics for classifying the speech signal as a closest one of a defined characteristic slope and a flat speech signal;~~

an evaluator adapted to evaluate the accumulated samples to obtain a representative sample and to make a determination whether a slope of the representative sample of the speech signal conforms to a defined characteristic slope stored in the storage device; and

a selector for selecting a preferential one of a first coding parameter value and a second coding parameter value for ~~application to~~ coding the speech signal ~~for the coding~~ based on the determination ~~on the slope of the representative sample~~.

27. (Amended) The system according to claim 24 where the evaluator comprises an averaging unit is adapted to average the accumulated samples over the ~~minimum~~ sampling duration to obtain the representative sample.

28. (Amended) The system according to claim 24 where the evaluator assumes the spectral response of a speech signal is sloped in accordance with the defined characteristic slope prior to the expiration of the ~~minimum~~ sampling duration.



**REMARKS**

By this preliminary amendment, applicant has added new claims 1-31. An early allowance and issuance of claims 1-31 pending in the present application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;  
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